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SOURCE Giornale de Trieste.

USSR OPERATES SMUGGLING NETWORK IN AUSTRIA

Carloads of machines, industrial equipment, and scarce metals are being moved daily across the Austrian borders, en route to Satellite countries. At the slightest protest on the part of Austrian customs officials, USSR officers intervene, declaring the trains to be military transports, and thereby silencing the customs men.

Soviet officers dressed as civilians are in charge of procuring goods, and frequently use pressure to convince reluctant firms. Intimidation tactics were used, for example, to conclude a recent deal for the purchase of 100,000 tons of scrap metal.

The center of this vast network of business transactions, including USIA activities, is the Trattnerhof in Vienna, a building located on the Graben [in the international sector]. Soviet Colonel Tikhomirov, retired, is in charge. The business is not conducted in his name, however, nor in the name of USIA, but by Austrian firms which operate in Switzerland, Belgium, and England, as "representatives" of overseas business corporations.

It was discovered recently that 20 state-owned locomotives disappeared on the Holzwinden-Wehrden railroad trunk line in Germany. The locomotives had been dismantled by an unidentified enterprise and moved across the border on trucks.

Moreover, an entire airplane factory is said to have been dismantled at the instigation of Soviet agents, and the parts shipped across the Austro-Hungarian border.

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